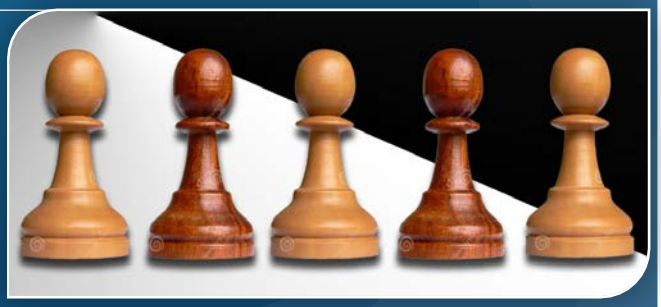
Oklahoma Chess Monthly

NOVEMBER 2021

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma



Fifth Anniversary Issue of OCM

In This Issue:

- Jerry Spann Memorial
- Armed Forces Championship
- Luther Wins 12th Title
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

5th Anniversary Issue

The *Oklahoma Chess Monthly* reaches its fifth year of publication this month, without ever missing a deadline. That's some kind of record among state chess journals! I started it after Frank Berry died in 2016. He had published a Quarterly and was a scholar of chess history in this area, and I wanted to continue his work to document some of the interesting regional chess history, as well as to cover basic chess news, games, etc. OCM articles have won three CJA (Chess Journalists of America) awards, including Lou Hays' exclusive article on his meetings with Bobby Fischer, and we've seen some fascinating chess characters from Oklahoma that I hope future Okie chess players will enjoy reading too. I'm not sure how long I will continue doing this, as it takes a lot of time, but for now thanks to everyone who has participated in this project!

"Oklahoma's Official Chess Bulletin Covering Oklahoma Chess on a Regular Schedule Since 1982"

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JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL NEW VENUE SHINES

The 53rd Jerry Spann Memorial inaugurated a great new venue in downtown Tulsa at the Holiday Inn City Central, with a large bright spacious playing hall that proved popular — except for the closed hotel garage which caused headaches parking cars on the street. Next time that won't be an issue.

Julian Proleiko (2304) of St. Louis, MO, won the Open section alone with a 4-1 score ($500), despite a first round loss to Arkansas player David Phillips (1914). This is an indication of how tough this section was that 4-1 would win it straight out.

Daniel Herman (2150-CO), Luke Tran (2038-KS), and Matt Dalthorp (2032-OK) tied for 2-4th place with 3½. Oscar Wang had a great tournament and went undefeated to win the Class A prize.

The U1800 "Reserve" section saw a four-way tie with 4 points between Ryan McCrea (SC), Jacob Sanders (MO), Elizabeth Braddy (OK), and Robert Talbot (MO). I was especially impressed with Elizabeth's play.

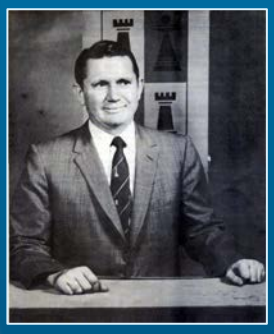
The U1200 "Novice" Section split first with 4½ points between new unrated player Braden Kelley and rising scholastic player William Lin; both of Oklahoma.

TD was Tom Braunlich assisted by Harold Brown and Josie Braddy. Crosstables here:

http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202110100832.1-10399491

See the GAMES SECTION on Page 5 for several annotated examples.

*"Every chess player is forever in debt to **Jerry Spann. The U.S. Chess Federation is a living monument to his talent and dedication."***
(Fred Cramer, USCF President 1960-63)



Jerry Spann was a businessman from OKC and President of the U.S. Chess Federation from 1957-1960. He is widely credited with saving it from bankruptcy, creating the tournament and rating systems we have today, and paving the way for the Fischer Boom. He passed away in 1968.

Top – Playing venue with Proleiko playing white against Phillips in the foreground.
Above – Oscar Wang vs. Luke Tran, with David Luscomb.
Left – Daniel Herman of CO in key 4th-round game with Proleiko.

62nd Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championships

Grapevine TX • October 8-11 2021

Participants of the 62nd Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championships, in Grapevine, Texas. Oct 2021. Grapevine Mayor Pro Tem (front row and center in the photo) welcomed everyone, declared all players honorary citizens of Grapevine citizens, and proclaimed, "The games of the US Armed Forces Open Chess Championships are now Open!" Photo by Danny Fallon.

Jim Hollingsworth went all out with this one! He raised $20,000 and put on a first-class 62nd edition of this prestigious event. The Army veteran and Honorary Okie worked on it tirelessly, created an event with no entry fee for the military players (active duty and veterans sections), including no-charge for a $50-per-plate banquet, plus prizes and gifts, and separate Blitz and Rapid events. The result was an experience that showed clearly the appreciation Americans still have for the servicemen and women who do so much for us. Chief Arbiter was Louis Reed.

Hollingsworth also hired two FIDE arbiters to get both main events FIDE-rated and acquired five DGT electronic chessboards (thanks to Reed) that could broadcast and record the games for inclusion in the next ChessBase and TWIC. The rounds were streamed live over the Internet (a first), and it boasted the largest-ever veteran's tournament (22 players) out of the 71 players total. Army won the team championship. The Active Duty winners are eligible for NATO international competition as well. Many volunteers supported this effort.

Past OCA President *Chuck Unruh* received one of two lifetime achievement awards given out in surprise ceremonies, named after Texas organizing legend Harmon D. Throneberry.

The Okie father-son team of Charles D "Chuck" Unruh and Charles M Unruh dominated the event's scoring, both finishing first place in their sections – Chuck placed first in the Veterans section with 4½ points, while Charles won the Active service member event impressively with 5-0. This result must have been especially pleasing to Chuck, since in 1975 he won the USAFOCC himself as an Air Force Sergeant, and now his son has done the same!

See the GAMES SECTION page 5.

Right: Chuck Unruh and Charles M Unruh.
Photo: Danny Fallon

NM Ron Luther Wins His 12th Missouri State Championship!

NM Ron Luther won the Missouri state title for the 12th(!) time on September 18-19 in Springfield. This time Ron had to win his last-round game against the tournament leader to set up a four-way tie for 1st place with NM Julian Proleiko, NM Ted Belanoff, and Vaseegaran Nandhakumar.

TD was Martin Stahl of Joplin.

Ron sent us his notes on the key game (below.

NM Ron Luther (2200)
NM Ted Belanoff (2200)
Rd.4 MO State Championship,
09-19-2021 C24 (Notes by Luther)

This was my last round game vs Ted Belanoff. Once again a must win situation in order to at least tie for 1st, thereby obtaining my 12th Championship/Co Championship. However this time I had the White pieces! Not a big fan of tiebreaks, as one has no control over how their opponents played.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d3 Bc5 4. Nf3 d6 5. a4 Bg4 6. c3 a5 7. h3 Bh5 8. O-O Qd7 9. Na3 h6 10.Nc2 g5?!

My Opponent offered a draw here. Strange how after playing such an aggressive move he would do so. Doug Eckert has also played g5 in some of his more recent games, but it was with the White Knight on d2. Only person who has had some success, that I have seen, was Pavel Blatney, but his Bishop was on e7.

11. d4!

My Move order was specifically used in order to anticipate g5. As is common knowledge, the correct way to counter a flank attack, is with a break in the center, if available.

11... Bb6 12. dxe5 dxe5 13. Qe2 ± Nc6?!

(13... Qe7 Is better, but Nc6 looks normal.)

14. Rd1 *White continues to develop all of his pieces. This one with tempo.*

14... Qe7 15. Be3 g4 16. hxg4 Nxg4 17. Bx b6 cxb6 18. Ne3 Nxe3 19. Qxe3

The ending is horrible for Black, so he must try to continue the attack hoping White makes a mistake.

19... Qf6 20. Be2 Rg8

Time 1:08-1:23 Along about here, he offered another Draw. I got the feeling, with the speed of his play, he just wanted to get out of there.

21. Rd5! Ne7?!

Things are not pleasant, but needs to find some way to get the Rook on a8 into the game, to have any chance.

22. Bb5+!

After this move things go downhill fast.

22... Kf8 23. Nxe5! Bg4

(23... Nxd5 24. Nd7+ Kg7 25. Nxf6 Nxe3 26. Nxh5+ ±)

24. Nd7+

Seemed simplest to me at the time.

24... Bxd7 25. Rxd7 Ng6?

Not happy with his alternatives, and still dreaming of an attack.

26. Qxh6+ Rg7 27. Rad1! Kg8
28. R1d6! Qe5 29. Bc4! Nf8

Based on the piece activity, as well as the spectator on a8, felt there had to be a win here. Spent time looking at Bxf7, then by inverting the moves, found the crusher.... (If 29... Nf4 30. Rd8+ +-)

30. Rxf7! Rxf7 31. Rf6 1-0

McCrea, Ryan (1780)
Braddy, Elizabeth (1490) [A03]
2021 Jerry Spann Memorial (5.10), 10.10.2021
[Notes by TB]

[Key last round game in the reserve section.]
1.f4
[The Bird's Opening. Not named so because it is 'for the birds' but rather instead for the 19th century British master Henry Bird (1830-1908).]

1...d5 [1...c5 was Fischer's response, after which Larsen played 2. e4 transposing to a Sicilian.]

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e3 e6 4.b3 Nf6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Bb2 b6 8.Ne5 Bb7 9.Qe2 [White has achieved the ideal of the Birds -- the N posted up on e5 where it hopes to spearhead a kingside attack. But from here on Elizabeth plays solidly and gives him no chances.]

9...a6 10.d3 Bc5 11.Nd2 0-0 12.d4? [12.Ndf3 Ne8!]

12...Bb4 13.c3 Bd6K 14.0-0 a5 15.c4 Bb4 16.Nef3 Qe7 17.a3 Bxd2 18.Nxd2 Qd7 [18...a4! would have undermined white's structure and given black a significant edge.]

19.Rac1 Rfe8 20.Qd3 Rac8 21.c5 Bc6 22.a4 Bb7 23.Ba3= Ra8 24.Qc3 Qc6 25.cxb6 Qxc3 26.Rxc3 cxb6 27.Rc7 Rab8 28.h3? Rec8 29.Rfc1 Ne8 30.Rxc8 Rxc8 31.Rxc8 Bxc8 32.Be7 Nf6 33.Bd8

[33.Bxf6 gxf6]

33...Nd7 34.g4 Kf8 35.Nf3 f6 36.g5 Kf7 37.Kf2 Ba6 38.h4 Bd3 39.Nd2 Kg6 40.Kg3 Bc2 41.Bc7

[Elizabeth has outplayed her opponent after the middlegame slip, reaching this funny almost-symmetrical position with the mutual stymie on the queenside. Here white offered a draw and Elizabeth refused, as she does have a slight edge (King position).]
41...Kf5 42.Bd8 Kg6 43.Bc7 Kf7 44.Bd8 Kg6 45.Bc7 Kf7 46.Bd8 Ke8 47.gxf6 gxf6 48.Bc7 Kf7 49.Bd8 Kg6 50.Bc7 Kf5 51.Bd8 [51.Bd8 e5 looks like the only winning try but after 52.fxe5 fxe5 53.dxe5 Kxe5 54.Kg4 it is still very drawish.] ½-½

Tran, Luke (2038)
Patton, Tom (2077) [B12]
2021 Jerry Spann Memorial (5.3), 10.10.2021
[Notes by TB]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 Ne7 6.0-0 c5 7.Be3 Nec6 8.dxc5 Nd7 9.c4 Bxc5?!

[9...dxc4 10.Na3 before 10...Bxc5 is the main line, but it scores well for white. Example game: 11.Nxc4 0-0 12.Qc1 Bxe3 13.Qxe3 Nb6 14.Nd6 Nd5 15.Qa3 Bg4 16.Rfe1 Qb6 17.Rac1 Rad8 ½-½ (44) Zhigalko,S (2647)-Donchenko,A (2569) Gjakova 2016]

10.cxd5 exd5

[Patton is fond of gambiting pawns in the

TOP 25

For NOV 2021

Active Oklahoma Players				
	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2537	0	
2	Howard Zhong	2302	0	
3	Ryan Amburgy	2260	20	
4	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
5	Mark Hulsey	2153	0	
6	David Zelnick	2108	-29	
7	Charles D Unruh	2085	6	▲
8	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	▼
9	Veronika Zilajeva	2080	0	▼
10	Charles M Unruh	2049	25	▲
11	Tom Patton	2048	-28	▼
12	Matt Dalthorp	2044	12	▲
13	David Luscomb	2043	21	▲
14	Michael Nugent	2042	0	▼
15	James Long	2041	-23	▼
16	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
17	Stephen Gehly	2000	0	
18	Logan Zachare	1940	-19	
19	Wayne Hatcher	1926	0	
20	Jerry Casteel	1926	0	
21	Maxwell Barnes	1918	17	▲
22	Joe Dean Veal	1912	-5	▼
23	Harold Brown Jr.	1901	0	
24	Oscar Wang	1899	29	
25	Maxwell Xie	1839	0	▲

Player of the Month

CHARLES M UNRUH

He won the Armed Forces Championship in October (see article). The former scholastic chess TD is now on active Air Force duty.

middlegame but here it backfires.]

11.Bxc5 Nxc5 12.Nc3 d4 13.Nb5 d3 14.Nd6+ Kf8 15.Nxf5 dxe2 16.Qxe2 Qd3 17.Qxd3 Nxd3 18.Rad1 Ndxe5 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Rfe1 f6 21.f4 Ng6 22.Rd7 Rb8 23.Nxg7 Nxf4 24.Ree7 Rg8 25.Rf7#

1-0

Li, Benjamin
Stonehocker, Shane [B03]
2021 Jerry Spann Memorial (4.12),
10.10.2021 *[Notes by TB]*
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Nc6 7.Nf3? [This move, allowing a very destructive pin, is exactly the kind of thing Alekhine Defense players like Shane hope for. Better is 7.Be3 Bf5 8.Nc3]

7...Bg4 8.Be3 e6 9.Qd2 Be7 10.Nc3 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Bh4+ 12.Kd1 Qd7 13.c5 Nd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Bg2 0-0-0
[15...Nxd4! is winning 16.Qxd4 *(16.Bxd4 0-0-0 17.Bc3 Qxc5)* 16...Qxd4+ 17.Bxd4 0-0-0 18.Kc2 Rxd4]

16.f4 Qd7 17.Bxc6 Qxc6 18.Kc2 Be7 19.Qc3 Qg2+ 20.Kb3 Qd5+ 21.Qc4 Qe4 22.Rae1 Rd5 23.Qc2 Qxc2+ 24.Kxc2 Rhd8 25.Rd1 f6 26.Rd2 g5 27.Rhd1 g4 [27...gxf4 28.Bxf4 Rg8 maintains a small edge for black, but now this ending is about dynamically equal.]

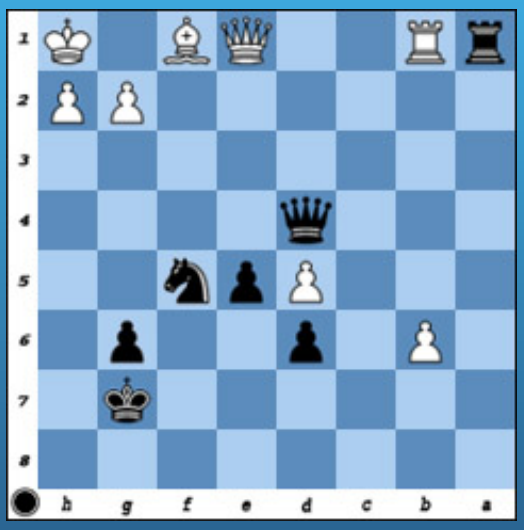
28.Rg1 f5 29.h3! Rg8?
[Shane is trying to keep winning chances alive and so avoids 29...h5 30.hxg4 hxg4 31.Rh2 which is fine for white.]

30.Rdg2
[30.hxg4 fxg4 31.Rh2 is going to win a pawn ... 31...Rg7 32.Rgh1 g3 33.Rxh7 g2 34.R1h2 Rxh7 35.Rxh7 Kd7 36.Rg7]

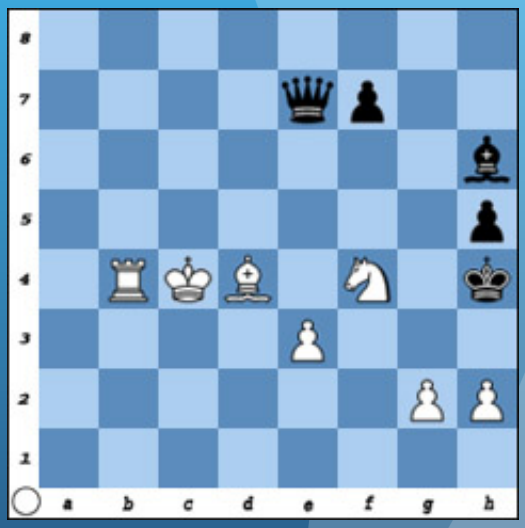
30...h5 31.hxg4 fxg4 32.Kc3 Rdd8!
[Good move.]
33.Bf2 Rdf8 34.Rh1 Rxf4?
[34...Rh8 35.Be3 leaves black better and with winning chances still alive, but now young Ben Li equalizes the game.]

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



Black to move and win. (Easy)



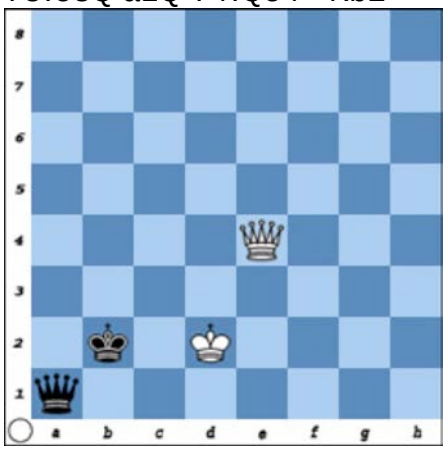
White to move and win. (Difficult)

35.Rxh5 g3 36.Be3 Rh4 37.Rxh4 Bxh4 38.Kd3 Kd7 39.Ke4 Kc6 40.Bf4 Rf8 41.Rg1 Rg8 42.Rg2 Rg4 43.Kf3 Rg7 44.Ke4 a5 45.Be3 Rf7 46.Bf4 Rg7 47.Be3 b6!? 48.cxb6 cxb6 49.Bf4 Rg8 50.Be3 Kb7 51.Bf4 Rd8?
[Frustrated he has no breakthrough Shane rolls the dice, entering a trick pawn ending, but it backfires. If 51...Kc6 52.Rc2+ Kb5 53.Kf3 black has nothing.]

52.Bxg3 Rg8 53.Kf3 Rxg3+ 54.Rxg3 Bxg3 55.Kxg3 Kc6 56.Kf4 Kd5 57.Ke3 a4 58.a3 Kc4 59.Ke4 b5 60.Ke3 b4
[This apparently was all part of black's plan, to target white's b2 pawn and enter a race situation. But Benjamin shows that he has misjudged it.]

61.Ke4 bxa3 62.bxa3 Kb3 63.Kd3
[Does the immediate 63.d5 also win? Yes, but just barely, because of a trick similar to the one in the game: 63...exd5+ 64.Kxd5 Kxa3 65.e6 Kb2 66.e7 a3 67.e8Q a2 68.Kc4 a1Q 69.Qe2+ Ka3 70.Qe3+ Kb2 71.Qd2+ Kb1 72.Kb3!]

63...Kxa3 64.Kc3 Ka2 65.Kc2
[Both sides are going to get a queen in this line, but because white's king is near there is a winning trick that is well worth remembering for your own games:]
65...a3 66.d5 Ka1 67.Kc1 a2 68.Kc2 exd5 69.e6 d4 70.Kc1 d3 71.e7 d2+ 72.Kxd2 Kb1 73.e8Q a1Q 74.Qe4+ Kb2



75.Qb4+ Ka2 76.Kc2!
[The winning trick. It's impressive young Ben was aware of this idea.]
76...Qc3+ 77.Kxc3
1-0

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) This is from Karpov-Taimanov, 1977. The world champion Karpov got spanked after 1. … Ng3+!! 2. hxg3, Ra8! and now white can't prevent mate with …Rh8mate.

(2) This is a composed position which leads to a picturesque mate by force – 1. Ng6+!, fxg6 2. Bf6+, Qxf6 3. Kd5 discovered check, 3…Kg5 4. h4+! Kf5 5. g4+!, hxg4 6. Rf4+, Bxf4 7. e4#.

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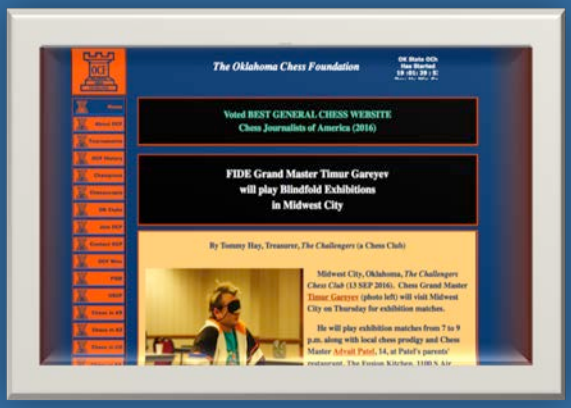
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will play Blindfold Exhibitions
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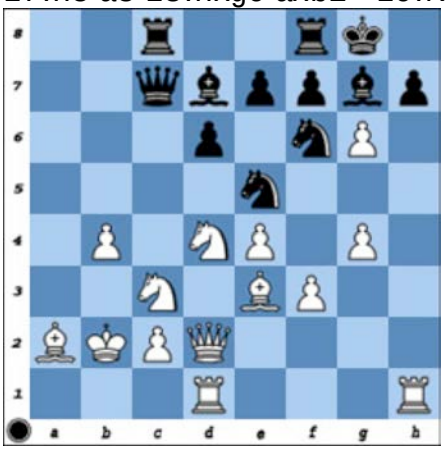
Li, Joshua
Braddy, Elizabeth [B78]
2021 Jerry Spann Memorial (4.11), 10.10.2021
[Notes by TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.Bb3 Rc8 11.0-0-0 Ne5 12.g4
[12.h4 h5 is the main line, as played in Veal-Dalthorp (see last issue).]
12...b5 13.h4
[Now this approach is a tempo behind, a big difference here... 13.g5 b4 14.Nce2 Nh5 15.f4 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Rxc4 17.b3 Rc7 18.Ng3 Rc3 19.Nxh5 gxh5 20.Kb1 Qa5 21.f5 Rfc8 22.f6 e5 23.Nf5 Bxf5 24.exf5 Rxc2 25.Qxc2 Rxc2 26.Kxc2 Qxa2+ 27.Kd3 Bf8 28.Rc1 d5 29.Rhd1 Qb2 30.Bd2 Qxb3+ 31.Ke2 e4 32.Be3 Qb2+ 33.Ke1 Qxh2 34.Rxd5 Qb8 35.Rcd1 b3 36.Rd8 Qb4+ 37.Kf2 b2 38.Rb1 Qa5 39.Ra8 Qxf5+ 40.Ke1 Qa5+ 41.Kf2 Qc7 42.Rd1 Qh2+ 43.Ke1 Qh1+ 44.Ke2 Qxd1+ 0-1 (44) Polgar,J (2711)-Carlsen,M (2775) Mainz 2008]

13...a5 14.a3
[14.h5 a4 15.Bd5 b4 16.Nce2 Nxd5 17.exd5 b3 would be strong for black; but then again weakening white's king position with pawn moves is also problematic.]

14...a4 15.Ba2 b4 16.axb4 Qc7
[The players seem to so far be playing all the best moves, but here the computer prefers the immediate 16...a3 17.bxa3 Qc7 18.Ncb5 Qb8 with complex play.]

17.h5 a3 18.hxg6 axb2+ 19.Kxb2

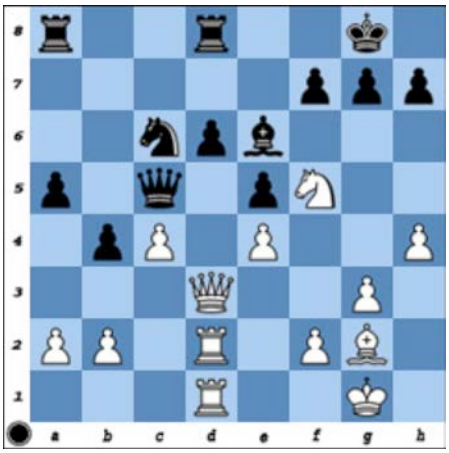


19...Nxf3!?
[A well-known tactic for Dragon players, based on the B on g7 aiming at the white king (with an upcoming knight move (...Nxe4). Practically a good try. The computer prefers 19...hxg6 but then 20.g5 Nh5 21.Nd5 is obviously favorable for white.]

20.Bxf7+?
[20.gxf7+! is the right way. 20...Rxf7 21.Bxf7+ Kxf7 22.Nxf3 Nxe4 23.Qd5+ refutes black's combination, and; Also, 20.gxf7+ Kh8 21.Nxf3 Nxe4 22.Rxh7+! Kxh7 23.Qh2+ Kg6 24.Qh5+ Kf6 25.Nxe4#]
20...Rxf7 21.gxf7+ Kf8!
[On this square her king is safe, and now her attack is unstoppable.]
22.Ncb5
[22.Nxf3 Nxe4 23.Qd3 Qb7 24.Kc1 Rxc3 is crushing, with the Dragon bishop doing its thing.]
22...Nxd2 23.Nxc7 Nc4+ 24.Kb1 Nxe3 25.Rde1 Rxc7 26.Rxe3 Nxg4 27.Rg3 Bxd4 28.Rxh7 Rc3
0-1

Herman, Daniel (2150)
Prolieko, Julian (2302) [B33]
2021 Jerry Spann Memorial (4.1), 10.10.2021
[Notes by TB]
This was the key 4th-round Board 1 game.
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 a5 13.g3 Bg5 14.h4 Bh6 15.Bg2 Be6 16.0-0 0-0 17.Qd3 Ne7 18.Nce3 Bxe3 19.Nxe3 Qc7 20.Rfd1 Rfd8
[The players had played quickly to this point, as they are still in a book line.]
21.Rd2 Qc5 22.Rad1
[22.b3 a4 23.Rad1 axb3 24.axb3 Nc6 25.Nf5 g6 26.Qf3 h5 27.g4 hxg4 28.Qxg4 Kh7 29.Qg5 Bxf5 30.exf5 Nd4 31.Qe7 gxf5 32.Qxf7+ Kh6 33.Rxd4 exd4 34.Re1 1-0 (34) Szostko,J (2262)-Bobras,P (2513) Bialystok 2017]

22...Nc6 23.Nf5
(see diagram next page)



Here Prolieko thought for 30 minutes and played:
23...Ra7 24.Qe3 Rad7 25.Rxd6??
[Daniel miscalculates something and plays an unsound combination. Instead swapping off all the major pieces would have reached a very drawn ending, which would have been smart given his lead in the scoring at this point.]
25...Qxe3 26.Rxd7 Qb6 27.c5 Rxd7 28.Rxd7 Qxc5 29.Rc7 Kf8 30.h5 Qb6 0-1

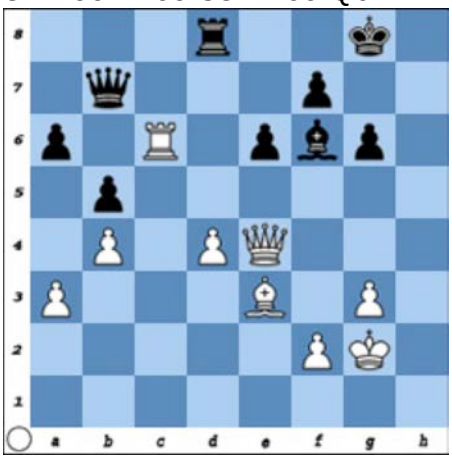
Prolieko, Julian (2302) –
Phillips, David (1950) [B30]
2021 Jerry Spann Memorial (1.1), 09.10.2021
[Notes by TB]
This big upset marked the first round…
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nf3 e6 5.0-0 Ne7 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Ne2 Nc6 8.c3 dxc3 9.bxc3 Be7 10.d4 0-0 11.Bd3 d5 12.e5 Bd7 13.Nf4 g6 14.Nh5 f5 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Qg4

[16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Bh6 Rf7 18.f4 with a fairly big edge for white.]
16...e5= 17.Nxf6+ Rxf6 18.Qh4 Rf7 19.Bg5 Qa5 20.Rac1 Re8 21.Bf6?
[21.Rfe1 e4 22.Be2=]
21...e4 22.Bb1 Ne7 23.Be5 Bb5 24.Rfe1 Ref8 25.Qg5 Qa6 26.h4 Qe6 27.Bg3 Nf5 28.f3 Nxg3 29.Qxg3 Rf4 30.h5 Kg7 31.Qg5 Qf5 32.h6+ Kg8 33.Qe7 Rf7 34.Qd8+ Rf8 35.Qc7 Rf7 36.Qc5??

[36.Qb8+ Rf8 37.Qxb7 Bd7 38.c4! seems to put Prolieko close to winning. But now the tables turn.]
36...Bc6 37.Qxa7 Qg5 38.Qb8+ Rf8 39.Qe5 Qxh6 40.Rf1 Re8 41.Qd6 exf3 42.Rc2 f2+ 43.Rcxf2 Rxf2 44.Rxf2 Re1+ 45.Rf1 Qe3+ 46.Kh2 Rxf1 47.Bxg6 Qf4+ 0-1

Unruh, Charles M
Risk, Gregory
2021 U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship
Grapevine, Texas, United Stat (5.1), 11.10.2021

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.c4 c6 5.d4 e6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qb3 Qc8 9.Nh4 Bg6 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 Nd7 14.Be3 Nf6 15.Bf3 Qc7 16.Rac1 Qb6 17.Rc3 Qa6 18.Rd1 Rac8 19.a3 Rfd8 20.Qc2 b6 21.Kg2 Qb7 22.b4 Qb8 23.Qa4 Qc7 24.Qc2 Qb8 25.h4 a6 26.Rh1 b5 27.h5 gxh5 28.Bxh5 Nxh5 29.Rxh5 g6 30.Rh1 Bf6 31.Qe4 Qd6 32.Rhc1 Qd7 33.cxb5 cxb5 34.Rc6 Rxc6 35.Rxc6 Qb7



36.Rxe6 Qxe4+ 37.Rxe4 Bg7
Charles shows good technique to win this ending.
38.Kf3 Kf8 39.Ke2 Rd5 40.Kd3 Rd6 41.Bf4 Rd5 42.Bc7 Rd7 43.Bb6 Rd5 44.Bc5+ Kg8 45.Re8+ Kh7 46.Ra8 Rf5 47.f4 g5 48.Ke4 Rf6 49.f5 Rh6 50.d5 Rh1 51.Rxa6 Re1+ 52.Kf3 Rd1 53.f6 Bh8 54.Ke4 Kg6 55.Bd4 Re1+ 56.Kd3 Rd1+ 57.Kc3 Kf5 58.d6 Bxf6 59.g4+ Ke6 60.d7+ Kxd7 61.Bxf6 Rg1 62.Bxg5 Rxg4 63.Be3 f5 64.Rf6 Re4 65.Kd3 Re5 66.Kd4 Re4+ 67.Kd3 Re5 68.Bd4 Rd5 69.Ke3 Ke7 70.Rc6 f4+ 71.Ke4 Rd7 72.Bc5+ Kf7 73.Kxf4 Rd3 74.Ra6 Ke8 75.Ke4 Rd1 76.Ra5 Ra1 77.Kd5 Kd7 78.Ra7+ Kc8 79.Kc6 Kb8 80.Rh7 Rh1 81.Rxh1
1-0

OSCO Scholastic Chess Schedule Released for 2021-22 Season

OSCO announced four prelim tournaments followed by a state championship event on April 2 next year in Jenks, OK. Details here:

https://www.ochess.org/scholastics-1

OCA Board Tackles Many Far-Reaching New Issues in Its First Board Meeting

In its first meeting since the new election last June the OCA board met via "Zoom" on October 16 and discussed many issues including:

- Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Status for the OCA,
- Merger of the OCA and OCF websites,
- Designation of the *Oklahoma Chess Monthly* as the official publication of the OCA for communication with members,
- Development of a new "Closed" State Championship invitational round-robin,
- Development of a Senior Championship,
- Re-establishing the name of the annual state championship event as the "Jerry Spann Memorial" as it was called from 1968-2003.
- Development of new Tournament Directors,
- Funds transfer to a new OCA bank account.

Summary of the results:

Non-Profit Status: Harold Brown is spearheading this effort aimed at helping fundraising. Paul Covington said it worked well for them in Colorado and OSCO has this too. The OCA will amend its certificate of incorporation with language appropriate for nonprofit and pursue this long process further.

Website Merger – The OCA voted to assume responsibility for maintaining the Archives of the OKIE DATABASE and the issues of the OKLAHOMA CHESS MONTHLY, which currently are on the OCF affiliate website, putting them on the OCA site as a resource for those interested in chess history in this region.

Oklahoma Chess Monthly – The OCA voted to adopt the OCM as the official OCA publication. The main purpose for this is to give the OCA a platform for communication with Oklahoma players, including such things as publishing the minutes of meetings or treasury reports or regular communications as required by the Bylaws. Editor Tom Braunlich pledged to keep politics out of the OCM, and if any major controversies come up in the future to treat them with an even journalistic hand while still maintaining editorial control. The original OCF affiliate connection will be discontinued.

Closed Championship – OCA discussed a proposal from Paul Covington to hold an invitational "Closed" state championship, as they have in many other states like Colorado and Missouri, in addition to the normal Open state championship. It is intended to be a prestigious event, perhaps called something like the "Oklahoma Cup" but not replace the traditional title event. The possibility is still under consideration as a 6-player RR with traditional time controls.

Senior Championship – Harold Brown proposed an annual Senior (50+) Open Championship event to select the official Oklahoma representative for the national tournament of senior champions held each year now at the U.S. Open. The OCA would support with a stipend for the winner to attend the nationals, in addition to prize money for the event. Harold's target date for this is April 2, 2022. I don't believe OCA approved the stipend yet. *(continued.1)*

Jerry Spann Memorial Re-establishment – The board discussed a proposal by me to re-establish the name of the annual state open championship as the "Jerry Spann Memorial." Spann was an important national and international leader in chess I've written about in OCM many times (see my two-part article in August 2017 in the archives). The OCA members voted in 1968 after Spann died to rename the "Oklahoma Open" state championship the "Jerry Spann Memorial Tournament." It was called by that name from 1968-2003 when the political feuding within Oklahoma chess politics led to that state tournament being called Oklahoma Open again for the last 18 years. The proposal met with some objections and the board voted to table this decision until more facts about the name can be established by locating documentation.

Tournament Director Development – The board discussed the need to actively recruit more tournament directors since Tom Braunlich had said he wanted to greatly reduce his tournament workload in 2022.

Present were Chris Amburgy *president,* Harold Brown *vice president,* Chuck Unruh *past president,* Rebecca Rutledge *secretary,* Joe Veal *2020-21 vice president,* Paul Covington *at-large member,* Stephen Gehly *at-large member. Not present:* Jerry Casteel *treasurer.*

This summary is my own unofficial report based on Rebecca Rutledge's excellent (but not yet approved) draft of the meeting minutes, as well as my attendance at half of this zoom meeting. When the minutes are approved and published you can see the official details.

Nov 13-14 — 5th FKB MEMORIAL — Stroud OK

5-SS, G/90;+30. Site: Cattle Country Lodge, 1200 N 8th Ave, Stroud, OK 74079. (Turner Turnpike, Exit 179, then north 200 yards to other side of turnpike.) HR: $95. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). EF: $45 if mailed by 11/9, $55 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). Registration: 9-9:45am Sat 11/13. Prizes $$2200 (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/55 paid entries): Open: $550(G)-250, X: 200, A: 200. Reserve (U1800): $250(G) C: 200 D: 200, Novice (U1200): $200(G), 1000/below: $150. Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Byes: One 1/2-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. Adv. Entries: www.paypal.me/Braunlich or mail T.Braunlich, 1638 S. Carson Ave.#803 Tulsa OK 74119. Info: tom.braunlich@cox.net. Website: ocfchess.org LS W. *CHECK prior to the tournaments for possible last-minute COVID virus policy changes.

Dec 12 (Sunday) — OKLAHOMA BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP — Details TBD (see ochess.org)

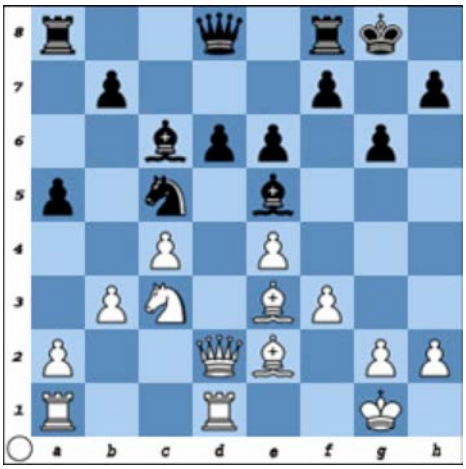
Dec 18 — 30th Annual HOLIDAY OPEN — Tulsa OK

4-SS, G/45;+15. Dual Rated. **Site**: Harvard Ave Baptist Church, Tulsa. Two Sections: Open and Novice(U1200). Cash Prizes: Open: $200-1st(G), Novice: $100-1st(G), plus other cash prizes per entries in both sections. Registration: 8:30am-9:45am. EF: $30 cash or check at door — includes free PIZZA Lunch before round 2 for players. Free coffee and refreshments. No credit cards. No advanced entries. Round 1 starts 10:00am. (TD will adjust round times schedule after lunch). BYES: one ½-point bye Rds. 1, 2 or 3. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net. 918-284-2489. LS W.

Herman, Daniel (2150)
Wang, Oscar (1875) [B38]
2021 Jerry Spann Memorial (5.2), 10.10.2021
[Notes by TB]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 d6 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Bd7 10.Qd2 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bc6 12.f3 a5 13.b3 Nd7 14.Be3
[The natural move 14.Bxg7 is not as good because here white would weaken his own many dark squares, more than black's.]

14...Nc5 15.Rab1 e6 16.Rfd1 Be5



Oscar had a similar position to this in the most recent OSCO championship with the B posted up on e5 with threats against h2.

17.Bf1?!
Although this is a book move, instead 17.Bd4 is more common in my database, challenging black's aggressively placed bishop, despite what I said above about the dark squares! 17...Qh4 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qe3 Qe7 looks perfectly fine for black though.

17...f5
[17...Qh4! 18.g3 Qf6 is strong for black, with a double attack on c3 and f3.]

18.exf5 gxf5 19.f4

[19.a3 Qh4 20.f4 Bxc3 21.Qxc3 Rf6 22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.Qg3+ ½-½ (23) Christ,R (2240)-Holloway,T (2160) Germany 2009]

19...Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Ne4 21.Qd4 Qe7 22.c5!?

[22.Bd3 trying to get rid of the knight then 22...Rf6 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Rb2 e5! with good play for black I think. Instead Herman challenges Oscar with an interesting pawn gambit.]

22...dxc5 23.Qe5 Qf6 24.Qxf6 Rxf6 25.Rbc1 b6 26.Bd4! Rg6 27.Be5 Rc8 28.a3 Kf7 29.b4 a4

[29...axb4 30.axb4 cxb4?! 31.Ba6 Rcg8 32.g3 Nxg3 33.hxg3 Rxg3+ is only a draw for black.]

30.bxc5 bxc5 31.Be2 Ke7 32.Bf3 Bd5
[Oscar has done a good job of consolidating his extra pawn and white has little compensation for it any more.]

33.Re1 Rgg8 34.g4?! h5

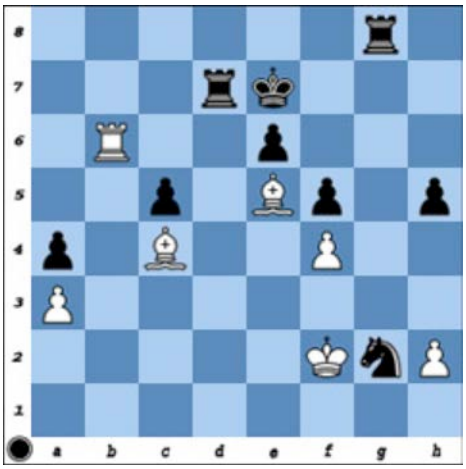
[This is strong, but the comp points out that 34...Nd2 is winning. For example: 35.Bxd5 exd5 36.Bc3+ Ne4 37.g5 d4]

35.g5 Nxg5 36.Bxd5 Nf3+
[36...Ne4+! 37.Kf1 exd5 is even stronger, a pawn ahead of the previous line which was also winning!]

37.Kf2 Nxe1 38.Bc4 Ng2 [Oscar emerges up the exchange plus two pawns, and theoretically should be winning, but it will not be easy at all. Daniel's two bishops are beautifully posted and showing off their power.]

39.Rb1 Rcd8 40.Rb7+ Rd7 41.Rb6

(see diagram next page)



41…Nxf4! 42.Bxf4 Rd4 43.Rxe6+ Kd7 44.Rd6+ Rxd6 45.Bxg8 Rd3!

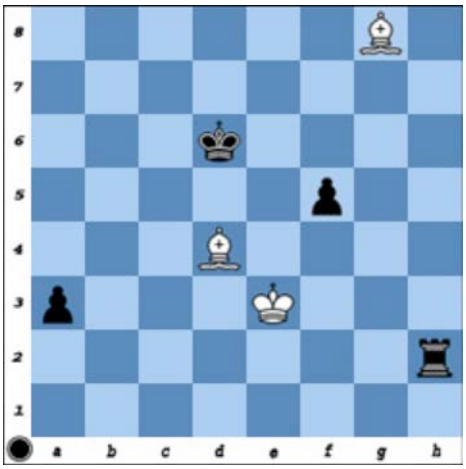
[Oscar has found a nice series of tactical moves and now a third white pawn falls. It should be winning, but again it isn't easy to deal with the two Bs on an open board. At this point white had 25 minutes left and black 15.]

46.Bf7 h4 47.Be3 Kd6 48.Bf4+ Ke7 49.Bg8 Rxa3 50.Bg5+ Kd6 51.Bxh4 Ke5 52.Be7

[Those annoying bishops! Black has 5 minutes left.]

52...Rc3 53.Ke2 Rc2+ [53...a3 may be the best way to win, even though it allows white to keep a dangerous-looking h-pawn. For example, 54.h4 a2 55.Bxa2 Rc2+ 56.Kf3 Rxa2 57.Bxc5 Rc2 58.Be7 Rc3+ 59.Kg2 f4 black should be winning.]

54.Kd3 Rxh2 55.Bxc5 a3 56.Bd4+ Kd6 57.Ke3



57…a2?

[With less than a minute on his clock, and after playing a terrific game, Oscar throws it away with this tempting move that wins a piece. Daniel can now reach a book draw.]

[57...Rh3+ 58.Kf4 Rh4+ 59.Ke3 Re4+ 60.Kd3 Re8 keeps the win alive according to the computer, although it isn't easy here either.]

58.Kf4! Rh4+ 59.Kxf5 Rxd4 60.Bxa2 Rd2 61.Bg8 Rf2+ 62.Ke4

A book draw.
½-½

Oscar played a good game and also kudos to Daniel Herman for terrific defense!

"Strategy requires thought; Tactics require observation."
— Max Euwe

By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW:

Two New Books from Russell Enterprises

Russell Enterprises, Inc. (www.russell-enterprises.com) , which has been publishing chess books for 35 years, is known for the diversity of its offerings. Its recent efforts reflect this.

Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual: FastTrack Edition (216 pages, $19.95) edited by Karstein Mueller and Alex Fishbein

Roughly a decade ago four-time US Champion Alex Shabalov paid a visit to the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club of San Francisco and during his lecture was asked what book he would recommend for improving. Shabalov, realizing no indication of playing strength had been provided, thought long and hard before replying. His answer: *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*. He immediately added this was a book to be used throughout a player's career, some parts being more accessible as they improved.

One might imagine him making the same recommendation, but without any qualifications, for *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual: FastTrack Edition.* This slimmed down version of the classic offers only the core, highlighted sections of the original. It is a book that belongs in the library of every chess player who does not already own *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual.*

Kingwalks: Paths of Glory (288 pages, $24.95) by Yasser Seirawan and Bruce Harper

Every beginning chess player is taught the importance of protecting the king by castling early. The result is many learn to do so at the first opportunity, almost automatically. They are then confused when they come across the following advice from Richard Reti: "*You should castle when there is no better move*".

What is one to think of this? Knowing the exceptions, when it makes sense to delay castling in favor of positional gains, is the mark of a strong player. So is keeping the king in the center to keep the opponent guessing where to launch an attack. These subjects and more addressed in the latest book by Yasser Seirawan and Bruce Harper.

Kingwalks: Paths of Glory deals with a subject seldom dealt with in chess literature. Offhand this reviewer can recall only one earlier effort on the theme: *The King in the Middlegame* (Chess Enterprises 1999) by Edmar Mednis.

Seirawan and Harper arrange the chapters around a number of themes including: Kingwalks to Prepare an Attack, Kingwalks in Anticipation of an Endgame, Kingwalks to Defend Key Points, Kingwalks to Attack Key Points or Pieces Mating Attacks, Escaping to Safety Across the Board, Escaping to Safety Up the Board, Kingwalks in the Opening, Kingwalks in the Endgame, Double Kingwalks and Unsuccessful Kingwalks. They follow-up with individual chapters on such noted king walkers as Wilhelm Steinitz, Aron Nimzowitsch, Tigran Petrosian, Yasser Seirawan and Duncan Suttles.

If you are familiar with Nigel Short's famous win over Jan Timman from Tilburg 1991 and it brought a smile to your face this is the book for you.

There is plenty of entertainment and instruction throughout.